

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1932

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

U.S. MISSION BERLIN 330

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL GW US

SUBJ: SCHWARZ-SCHILLING PROPOSAL FOR SENDING GERMAN STUDENTS

TO U.S. STATUS REPORT

REF: SECSTATE 213096

SUMMARY

A STATUS REPORT AND SUMMARY OF RECENT EVENTS FROM LOCAL SOURCES SHOWS THE PROPOSAL WILL PROBABLY BE TRIED EXPERIMENTALLY BETWEEN GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY AND RHEIN-PFALZ NEXT YEAR. THIS COULD OVERCOME FOOT-DRAGGING BY THE OTHER LAENDER, INCLUDING BADEN-WUERTEMBERG. THE LATTER SEEMS TO BE HESITATING ON PROBLEMS OF COST AND SUBSTANCE, ESPECIALLY THE ISSUES OF WHAT ACADEMIC SECTORS ARE CROWDED IN BOTH THE US AND FRG AND THE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS OF ACCREDITATION. WE WELCOME THE

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PILOT PROJECT APPROACH, BUT CONTINUE TO EXERCISE A WATCHING AND

REPORTING BRIEF ONLY IN THE FACE OF THE MANY UNCLEAR FACTORS AND AND PARTY-POLITICAL OVERTONES. END SUMMARY.

1. IN LAST TWO MONTHS, USIS STUTTGART AND CONGEN HAVE OBTAINED SEVERAL PIECES OF INFORMATION AND OPINION FROM VARIETY OF SOURCES ON THIS PROPOSAL WHICH MAY NOT HAVE COME TO DEPARTMENTS ATTENTIONS.

2. FROM BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG CULTURAL MINISTRY SOURCE, WE'VE HEARD THAT STAENDIGE KONFERENZ DER KULTUS MINISTER HAS A "COMMITTEE OF THREE " CONSIDERING THE NUMBERS OF PLACES AVAIL-ABLE IN GERMAN UNIVERSITIES COMPARED TO ESTIMATED PROFFESIONAL MANPOWER NEEDS IN FUTURE. THE DIFFERENTIAL WILL SHOW THE MAGNI-TUDE OF THE UNFILLED GERMAN NEED AND WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR DIS-CUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS (INCLUDING THE GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY GROUP). THE "COMMITTEE OF THREE" IS AWARE THAT OVER-CROWDED UNIVERSITY FIELDS OF STUDY IN THE FRG (ARCHITECTURE, MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, PHARMACOLOGY) ARE ALSO CROWDED IN U.S. THE "COMMITTEE OF THREE" WILL DRAW UP A CATALOG OF QUES-TIONS WHICH IT SEES AS IT WORKS ON THE PROPOSAL. EXAMPLES ARE: ACADEMIC QUALITY OF AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS, CURRICULUM, EQUIVA-LENCY , OF COURSES, AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS.. OTHER QUESTIONS WHICH HAVE ARISEN SO FAR (AND MAY OR MAY NOT APPEAR IN THE FINAL CATALOG) ARE: ADVISABILITY OF GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY, SPECIAL PROGRAMS AT SPECIFIED UNIVERSITIES FOR THE GERMANS, AND PERHAPS, THE IDEA OF RENTING US CAMPUS SPACE AND FACILITIES,

3. THE ORIGINAL "COMMITTEE OF THREE" OF THE STAENDIGE KONFERENZ HAS FORMED A "COMMITTEE OF FOUR" WHICH WILL BE SENT FROM GERMANY TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE AMERICANS. ITS MEMBERS WILL BE DRAWN FROM THE STAENDIGE KONFERENZ (2), FULBRIGHT COMMISSION (1), AND THE GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE (DAAD) (1). IT WILL USE THE "COMMITTEE OF THREE" CATALOG. THE PRESENT CONCEPT IS THAT THE "FOUR" WILL MEET BOTH WITH OFFICIALS AT HEW OR AMERICAN COUNCIL ON EDUCATION AND, IN ADDITION, WITH INDIVIDUAL INTERESTED COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES. UPON COMPLETION AND STUDY OF REPORT BY THE "FOUR", THE STAEDIGE KONFERENZ WILL MAKE FINAL DECISION WETHER FRG WILL IMPLEMENT PROPOSAL (OR MODIFICATION) OR REJECT IT.

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4. FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, WE NOW HEAR THAT THE PROBLEM OF COSTS, AND WHO WILL BEAR THEM, HAS GROWING RELEVANCE IN INTER-NAL GERMAN DISCUSSIONS. FYI: THIS ISSUE ARISES FROM THE CON-SITUATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE FRG WHEREBY THE INDIVIDUAL LAENDER (STATES) ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EDUCATION SUBSIDIES FROM BONN WHICH ARE LIMITED. OUR BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG SOURCES ESTIMATE THAT THE LAENDER WOULD UKTIMATELY HAVE TO BEAR THE BURDEN IF THE PROPOSAL IS IMPLEMENTED, BECAUSE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

IN BONN WOULD PROBABLY DEDUCT ANY PAYMENTS FOR THE SCHWARZ-SCHILLING PROGRAM FROM THE SUBSIDIES PAID THE LAENDER.

COMMENT: WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS NEED NECCASSARILY BE SO. IT WOULD DEPEND ON BONN'S ATTITUDES. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER MONEY HAS BEEN DISCUSSED, EVEN INFORMALLY, BETWEEN BONN AND THE INDIVIDUAL LAENDER BUT WE TEND TO DOUBT IT AT THIS EARLY STAGE SINCE PAYMENT AMMOUNTS COULD NOT BE DELINEATED. END COMMENT.

5.ON POLITICAL SIDE, WE'RE TOLD THAT B/W MINISTER PRESIDENT DR. HANS FILBINGER (CDU) FAVORS THE SCHWARZ-SCHILLING PROPOSAL. WE BELIEVE HIS MINISTER OF EDUCATION, PROFESSOR HAHN, (CDU) TO BE LESS ENTHUSIASTIC, PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE WWAY THE IDEA WAS LAUNCHED WITH A POLITICAL, PARTISAN ASPECT, AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF THE OBVIOUS TECHNICAL EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS. INSIDE THE B/W CULTURAL MINISTRY, THE CIVIL SERVANTS ARE NEGATIVE TOWARD THE PROPOSAL, PRIMARILY ON FINANCIAL GROUNDS. THE MONEY, IF PROVIDED BY THE LAENDER, MIGHT REDUCE THE AMOUNT THE CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE FOR THEIR OWN DOMESTIC GERMAN PROGRAMS.

POLITICAL ACTION IN OTHER LAENDER (AS REPORTED LOCALLY AND THEREFORE SUBJECT TO COMMENT BY AMCONGEN FRANKFURT) SHOWS SAARLAND HAS WITHDRAWN COMPLETELY FROM PROJECT ON BASIS TOO HIGH POTENTIAL COST FOR ESTIMATED BENEFITS. ON OTHER HAND CULTURAL MINISTRY OF RHEINLAND-PFALZ, WE'RE TOLD, IS PURSUING PROPOSAL VIGOROUSLY, HAS MADE DIRECT CONTACT WITH GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, AND EXPECTS RESPONSE FROM GEORGETOWN U. CONTAINING SUGGESTIONS FOR GERMAN STUDY IN US BY END OF YEAR. RHEINLAND-PFALZ WILL INFORM OTHER CDU LAENDER OF GEORGETOWN LO LIST SO THEY CAN MAKE US CONTACTS IF THEY WISH.

COMMENT: THE RHEINLAND PFALS ACTION SEEMS TO RUN PARALLEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE STAENDIGE KONFERENZ AND COULD ACTUALLY GET THE LAENDER OUT IN FRONT OF THEIR OWN DESIGNATED PREMIUM, BUT WE BELIEVE THE GEORGETOWN PROPOSAL MAY BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE SINCE IT WILL BE STUDIED CAREFULLY BY THE BUREAUCRATZ IN THE VARIOUS CULTURAL MINISTRIES AND THEY ARE ALREADY TENDING TOWARD THE NEGATIVE. END COMMENT.

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U.S. MISSION BERLIN 331

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

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6. MEANWHILE, ANOTHER ACADEMIC GROUP, THE WEST GERMAN RECTOR CONFERENCE (WEST DEUTSCHE REKTOREN KONFERENZ), ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS DEC 13, REVIEWED THE SCHWARZ-SCHILLING PROPOSAL ON DEC 210 RPT DEC 10 AND EXPRESSED THEMSELVES SKEPTICALLY BECAUSE THE OVER-FILLED COURSES OF STUDY IN THE US AND IN THE FRG ARE THE SAME ONES. THEREFORE, THE PRESSURE OF NUMMERUS CLAUSUS WOULD NOT BE RELIVED THIS WAY.

COMMENT: WE ARE DOUBTFUL IF THE WRK WILL HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE ON THE BASIC DECISION. THE RECTORS OF THE NINE B/W UNIVERSITIES DO NOT CONSIDER IT THE PROPER BODY TO MAKE A DECISION ON THIS SUBJECT EVEN THOUGH PROFESSOR ROLLECKE OF MANNHEIM UNIVERSITY IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WRK. END COMMENT.

7. ADDITIONAL CONGEN OBSERVATIONS: WETHER THE SCHWARZ-SCHILLING PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED OR NOT (AND IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY) A POSITIVE ATT BENENFIT HAS ALREADY BEEN ACHIEVED IN FOCUSING
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GERMAN ATTENTION AND THE INTEREST OF LEADING GERMAN EDUCATORS AND OFFICIALS ON THE US SYSTEM.

REGARDLESS OF HIS INDIVIDUAL VIEW ON THE SCHWARZ-SCHELLING PROPOSAL, WE KNOW OF NO RECTOR OR SENIOR OFFICIAL IN B/W WHO DOES NOT FAVOR MORE AND CLOSER CONTACT WITH THE US, ESPECIALLY ON THE STUDENT AND, ESPECIALLY, GRADUATE STUDENT LEVEL.

IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT THE CONCEPT OF A PILOT PROJECT ON A MORE LIMITED BASIS THAT THE SOMEWHAT GRANDIOSE SCHWARZ-SCHILLING IDEA IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND PROBABLY MORE FESASIBLE. THIS "EXPERIMENTAL" APPROACH WOULD REDUCE THE FEARS OF THE SKEPTICS AND THE PRESSURES ON THE BUDGETS OF THE LAENDER WHILE PERMITTING THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES TO TEST THEIR CAPABILITIES AGAINST GERMAN ACCREDITATION AND OTHER TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A PILOT PROJECT HAS BEEN AGREED BETWEEN GEORGETOWN AND RHEINLAND PFALZ AND THAT THIS INITIAL STEP MAY HELP BREAK THE TENDENCY OF THE OTHER LAENDER TO APPROACH THE PROPOSAL WITH " ALL DELIBERATE SLOWNESS". RUCHTI

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